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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/987,711	11/15/2001	Mareo Kimura	111111	7695

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EXAMINER

ILDEBRANDO, CHRISTINA A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1725

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

524

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/987,711

Applicant(s)

KIMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Christina Ildebrando

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2,4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-18, and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Horiuchi et al.

Horiuchi et al. (US 5,610,117) discloses a catalyst composition useful in the purification of diesel engine exhaust gas. The catalyst composition comprising (A) a first catalytic component comprising the two elements of iron and manganese and a refractory inorganic oxide and (B) a third catalytic component comprising at least one noble metal selected from the group consisting of palladium, platinum, and rhodium, and a refractory inorganic oxide deposited on a support (column 2, lines 60-65). Suitable refractory inorganic oxides include titania and zirconia having BET surface areas in the range of from 1-200 m²/g (column 5, lines 55-60).

With regards to component (A), it is taught that the total amount of iron and manganese is in the range of from 0.5-60g, preferably 2-20g per liter of catalyst and that the ratio of Fe:Mn is in the range of from 10:1 to 1:10 (column 5, line 64 – column 6, line

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5). With regards to component (B), it is taught that the amount of noble metal is in the range of from 0.001-6g per liter of catalyst (column 6, lines 40-50).

It is taught that the catalyst is prepared by separately preparing powders of (A) and (B) by immersing the refractory inorganic oxide into a salt solution of the metals, followed by drying and calcination at a temperature in the range of from 300-850 degrees C (column 7, lines 55-65). The powders are then mixed to form the final catalyst (column 8, lines 5-12). The use of zirconia in component (A) and titania in component (B) is exemplified (Example 1).

With regards to the language of the claims, it is the position of the examiner that, because the reference teaches immersion of the zirconia in the salt solution and given that the catalyst is prepared in the same or similar manner as disclosed herein, the catalyst of Horiuchi would inherently possess the lamellar transition metal layer claimed. With regards to the rate claimed, it is the position of the examiner that because the reference teaches the same components in the same amounts, the rate would inherently be the same. When the examiner has reason to believe that the functional language asserted to be critical for establishing novelty in claimed subject matter may in fact be an inherent characteristic of the prior art, the burden of proof is shifted to Applicants to prove that the subject matter shown in the prior art does not possess the characteristics relied upon. *In re Fitzgerald et al.* 205 USPQ 594.

As each and every element of the claimed invention is taught in the prior art as recited above, the claims are anticipated by Horiuchi et al.

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3. Claims 1-3, 7-8, 11-13, 15, 19-20, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Montreuil et al.

Montreuil et al. (US 5,155,077) discloses a catalyst composition useful in the purification of exhaust gas. The catalyst composition comprises a transition metal containing zeolite phase and a transition metal containing oxide phase (column 1, lines 50-55). Preferably the oxide is zirconia (column 2, lines 45-55). Suitable transition metals include copper, cobalt, nickel, chromium, iron, manganese, silver, zinc, and calcium (column 2, lines 15-30). It is taught that copper is contained in the oxide in an amount between 0.1-20% by weight (column 3, lines 1-10). Suitable zeolites include ZSM-5 (Table 1). The two phase materials can be employed in a ratio between 10-90% and 90-10% by weight (column 2, lines 25-30).

With regards to the language of the claims, it is the position of the examiner that, because the reference teaches immersion of the zirconia in the salt solution and given that the catalyst is prepared in the same or similar manner as disclosed herein, the catalyst of Montreuil et al. would inherently possess the lamellar transition metal layer claimed. With regards to the rate claimed, it is the position of the examiner that because the reference teaches the same components in the same amounts, the rate would inherently be the same. When the examiner has reason to believe that the functional language asserted to be critical for establishing novelty in claimed subject matter may in fact be an inherent characteristic of the prior art, the burden of proof is shifted to Applicants to prove that the subject matter shown in the prior art does not possess the characteristics relied upon. *In re Fitzgerald et al.* 205 USPQ 594.

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As each and every element of the claimed invention is taught in the prior art as recited above, the claims are anticipated by Montreuil et al.

4. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seshan et al.

Seshan et al. (US 5,989,457) discloses a catalyst composition useful for the production of synthesis gas. The catalyst composition comprises a thermally stabilized zirconium oxide coated with 0.1-5% platinum and 0.5-5% nickel (column 3, lines 35-50). The thermally stabilized zirconium oxide may be combined with an additional metal such as cerium (column 3, lines 55-65).

With regards to the language of the claims, it is the position of the examiner that, because the reference teaches immersion of the zirconia in the salt solution and given that the catalyst is prepared in the same or similar manner as disclosed herein (see column 4, lines 15-30), the catalyst of Seshan would inherently possess the lamellar transition metal layer claimed. With regards to the rate claimed, it is the position of the examiner that because the reference teaches the same components in the same amounts, the rate would inherently be the same. When the examiner has reason to believe that the functional language asserted to be critical for establishing novelty in claimed subject matter may in fact be an inherent characteristic of the prior art, the burden of proof is shifted to Applicants to prove that the subject matter shown in the prior art does not possess the characteristics relied upon. *In re Fitzgerald et al.* 205 USPQ 594.

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As each and every element of the claimed invention is taught in the prior art as recited above, the claims are anticipated by Seshan et al.

5. Claims 1-5, 7-8, 11-15, 19, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshikawa.

Yoshikawa (US 2002/0016259) discloses a catalyst composition useful in exhaust gas purification. The catalyst composition comprises a complex oxide of zirconium and manganese and/or cobalt (first component) with a zeolite (second component) (0013). The first component may further contain cerium (0019 and 0042). Suitable zeolites include ZSM-5, faujasite, beta zeolite, and mordenite (0020). The amounts of materials taught by the reference meet the instantly claimed amounts(see 0016, 0019, 0025).

With regards to the language of the claims, it is the position of the examiner that, because the reference teaches immersion of the zirconia in the salt solution and given that the catalyst is prepared in the same or similar manner as disclosed herein (see 0017), the catalyst of Yoshikawa would inherently possess the lamellar transition metal layer claimed. With regards to the rate claimed, it is the position of the examiner that because the reference teaches the same components in the same amounts, the rate would inherently be the same. When the examiner has reason to believe that the functional language asserted to be critical for establishing novelty in claimed subject matter may in fact be an inherent characteristic of the prior art, the burden of proof is shifted to Applicants to prove that the subject matter shown in the prior art does not possess the characteristics relied upon. *In re Fitzgerald et al.* 205 USPQ 594.

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As each and every element of the claimed invention is taught in the prior art as recited above, the claims are anticipated by Yoshikawa.

Conclusion

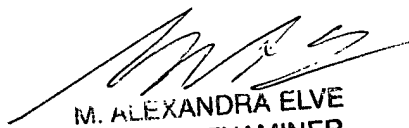
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christina Ildebrando whose telephone number is (703) 305-0469. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-5, with Alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Dunn can be reached on (703) 308-3318. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0651.

CAI
June 24, 2003


M. ALEXANDRA ELVE
PRIMARY EXAMINER